

Message Text

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ACTION AID-05

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAID, IR

SUBJ: 1975 INTERNATIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS SEMINAR

1. REGRET DELAY IN RESPONDING TO REFTEL. THERE APPARENTLY HAVE BEEN BUREAUCRATIC PROBLEMS WITHIN THE GOI WHICH HAVE DELAYED ITS RESPONSE TO INVITATION TO SEND AN IRANIAN PARTICIPANT TO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS SEMINAR.

2. THE GOI ON FEBRUARY 23 FINALLY REPLIED TO THE EMBASSY'S NOTE EXTENDING THE INVITATION WITH TWO CANDIDATES: (A) BRIGADIER GENERAL (RETIRED) ALI ABAR, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, IRANIAN NATIONAL CIVILIAN DEFENSE ORGANIZATION AND (2) MRS. SORUROZZAMAN MAHAZER, HEAD OF PROTOCOL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS FOR THE RED LION AND SUN SOCIETY VOLUNTEERS ORGANIZATION.

3. OF THE TWO CANDIDATES, GENERAL ABAR APPEARS TO BE BETTER QUALIFIED. HE HAS BEEN IN HIS CURRENT POSITION FOR ONLY SIX MONTHS, AFTER COMPLETING TWO AND ONE-HALF YEARS AS DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR PLANNING, PROGRAMMING AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH OF THE CIVIL DEFENSE ORGANIZATION. HIS KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH IS QUITE ADEQUATE, AND HE HAS ATTENDED NUMEROUS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES ON CIVIL DEFENSE. THOUGH RETIRED FROM THE IRANIAN ARMY, AT 52 HE HAS SEVERAL YERS ACTIVE SERVICE IN CIVIL DEFENSE AHEAD OF HIM. HE IS THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH IRANIAN DISASTER PLANNING AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL.

4. AS AID/PHA/FDRC IS AWARE, THE IRANIAN RED LION AND SUN SOCIETY
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(RLSS) HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR DISASTER RELIEF AND REHABILITATION

IN IRAN (TEHRAN A-182). THE CIVIL DEFENSE ORGANIZATION HAS THE MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY FOR DISASTER PREVENTION AND PLANNING AND FOR RESCUE OPERATIONS. HOWEVER, MRS. MOHAZER'S EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN MOSTLY IN VOLUNTEER RELIEF WORK WITH THE RLSS, AND SHE HAS NOT BEEN INVOLVED IN DISASTER RELIEF PLANNING, NOR DOES SHE HAVE MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS AREA. HER SELECTION APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN MAINLY BECAUSE OF HER CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH MRS. FARIDEH DIBA, MOTHER OF THE EMPRESS, IN THE RLSS VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION. MRS. MOHAZER HAS A GOOD KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH. HER QUALIFICATIONS WERE DISCUSSED WITH COLONEL ESMAIL GUILANPOUR, RLSS ASSISTANT MANAGING DIRECTOR FOR RELIEF, WHO SAID THAT THE RED LION AND SUN SOCIETY COULD NOMINATE AN ALTERNATE CANDIDATE, IF BOTH GENERAL ABAR AND MRS. MOHAZER ARE JUDGED BY AID/W TO BE UNQUALIFIED.

5. WHILE THE INVITATION TO IRAN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERNATIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS SEMINAR WAS PRESENTED TO THE GOI AS THE EMBASSY WAS INSTRUCTED (REFTEL), WE BELIEVE FUTURE INVITATIONS TO IRAN SHOULD NOT INCLUDE USG PAYMENT OF PER DIEM AND TRAVEL EXPENSES. WITH ITS CURRENT LARGE FOREIGN EXCHANGE SURPLUS, THE GOI CAN WELL AFFORD TO PAY.
HELMS

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